



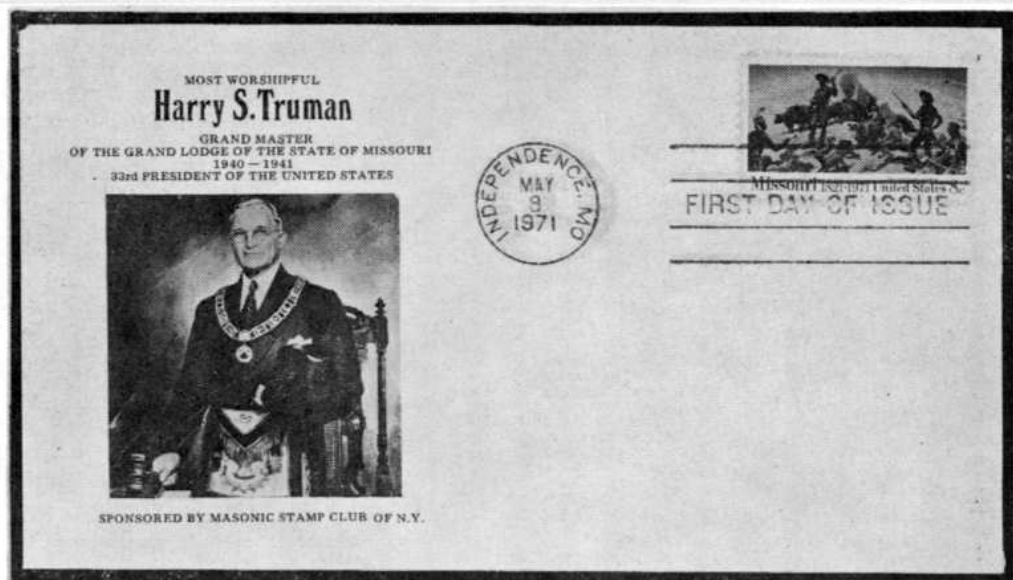
# The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 29

DECEMBER, 1972

NO. 4

## Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y. Cachet Cover



First day cover prepared for the Missouri Statehood stamp May 8, 1971, picturing Bro. Truman as Grand Master. This cover is available from Louis Bernstein, Cachet Sales Chairman.

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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Published by

The Ralph A. Barry - Al Van Dahl

PUBLICATION FUND

of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York Inc.  
22 East 35th St. New York, N. Y. 10016

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FRANKLIN R. BRUNS, JR.

Guest Editor

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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved itself through the years with its ever-increasing membership and the formation of other Masonic stamp clubs in the United States.

## ★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Every Month  
(Except July and August)

COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING  
22 East 35th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10017

## By the Sign of the Gavel

Those who missed the November meeting certainly missed a most interesting educational, and entertaining talk and display by Bro. Edwin Mayer. My sincere thanks for a wonderful evening.

I wish to thank all the committee who helped make our attendance at the A.S.D.A. Show a success, right from the opening of the show to the very last minute at the closing. It was highlighted by three new cachets by our club. Our co-chairmen of the Cachet Committee worked admirably against stormy weather to get out these three cachets for the show. We all owe a big thanks to Bros. Stanley Salomon and Mannie Reggel. Two exhibition frames were taken by the club and Bro. Salomon and myself showed some Masonic stamps and covers of 19th and 20th century vintage. It was hoped that this would help keep our club in the limelight, and from the sale of covers at the show, which far exceeded our expectations, I'm sure we reached our goal. Many members of the craft attending the show stopped at our lounge to chat and extend fraternal greeting, many of them having come from distant points.

As this is my last communication before the holiday season is upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to all our members a very Merry Christmas and Healthy and Happy New Year.

—Robert A. Smith

## BUREAU PRINTS

Beautiful engraved and lithographed printings are obtainable from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. There are small (6x8") and large (9x12") Presidential portraits; portraits of Chief Justices, and vignettes of buildings.

A current list of available prints may be obtained from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Office Services Branch, 14th and C Streets, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20226.

## CLUB AIDS SHRINE

President Robert A. Smith has received an acknowledgement for a Masonic Stamp Club of New York check, presented to the Portland, Ore., Shrine Hospital through Mrs. Arlene M. VanDahl.

# HARRY S. TRUMAN

## 1884 - 1972

In the course of the subdued funeral services for the late President Harry S. Truman, held in Independence, Mo., December 28, 1972, stress was placed on his wish that the services be Masonic and military. It is, perhaps, the first instance in which Masonic services were televised around the world.

Harry S. Truman had a long and varied participation in Freemasonry, as evidenced by the following highlights in his Masonic record.

He was raised on March 18, 1909, in Belton Lodge No. 450, Belton, Mo. He subsequently dimitted on December 20, 1910, and assisted in the organization of Grandview Lodge No. 618, of which he became Master under dispensation, and fully when the Charter was granted.

He again sat in the East in 1917, and from 1925 to 1930 he held the distinction of District Deputy Grand Master and District Lecturer. He then entered Grand Lodge, and progressed steadily until he was elected to the high and exalted station of Grand Master in 1940. He was the second Grand Master to serve as President of the United States. He was a member of many associated Masonic organizations, and, on October 19, 1945, he was crowned 33° at Washington, D. C.

On January 4, 1973, Postmaster General E. T. Klassen announced that a memorial postage stamp would be issued for President Harry S. Truman, who died on December 26, 1972.

The stamp is scheduled to appear May 8, 1973, on what would have been Mr. Truman's 89th birthday. While a first-day-of-issuance was not immediately announced, it was noted it was likely this would be Independence, Missouri, the home of the 33rd President.

Should the stamp be first issued in Independence, this would be the second in two years to appear in that city. The Missouri Statehood stamp, based on a mural detail in the Harry S. Truman library, was first issued May 8, 1971. Mr. Truman took a lively interest in the occasion.

His likeness previously appeared on

Brazil No. 673 and Ecuador No's. 558-9 (Scott's numbers).

The New York Times reported the Masonic Funeral Rite in its issue of December 29, 1972, as follows:

### Talk by a Masonic Leader and Prayer at the Funeral

Special to The New York Times  
INDEPENDENCE, Mo., Dec. 28—Following are remarks by W. Hugh McLaughlin, Grand Master of Missouri Masons, who spoke today at the beginning of the funeral service for former President Harry S. Truman, and a prayer by the Rev. H. M. Hunt at the service:

By Mr. McLaughlin

The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri shares the grief and sorrow of Mrs. Truman, Mrs. Daniel and her family and Miss Mary Jane Truman in the loss of our beloved and cherished native son. This expression comes from the grand lodge offices and the more than 108,000 of his Masonic brothers in Missouri.

We express our gratitude to the family, to Father Lembcke and to all other participants for the privilege of sharing in this service. We humbly and reverently join in paying lasting tribute to a great American and a renowned world statesman.

Masons are taught never to engage in any solemn, great or important undertaking without first invoking the aid and blessing of the deity. Shall we pray?

"We hail You, Supreme Architect of the universe. We come to You with spirits bowed low and ask the bounty of Thy grace and mercy in our bereavement. May our deeds be such as to prepare us for entry into Your spiritual kingdom, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Amen.

### A Magnificent Life

President Truman distinguished himself in many Masonic services, the most laudable of which was that of Grand Master of Masons in this state in 1940 and 1941. At that time he was also a member of the United States Senate. We express our gratitude to Mrs. Truman and Mrs. Daniel for sharing a portion of his exciting, magnificent life with us. He was our brother by adoption. He was our companion by choice.

The tenets of a Mason's profession are brotherly love, relief and truth. There abides with us faith, hope and charity. The greatest of these is charity for it extends through the boundless realms of eternity. Our notable brother exemplified charity in a universal way when he directed relief to be administered on an unprecedented scale to alleviate human degradation in the aftermath of World War II.

The lambskin or white leathern apron is the badge of a Mason, more ancient than the golden fleece or Roman eagle. It is white to admonish us to keep our personal lives pure. Our exalted brother wore it proudly and worthily.

The evergreen symbolizes a Mason's belief in immortality of the soul. It represents that vital spark of a spiritual life which shall never be quenched. President Truman expressed that belief. The beehive is an emblem of a Mason's industry. By it we are taught to be workers in the great hive of nature. Even in his later years our distinguished and beloved citizen practiced that teaching. No more striking example than his great edifice, named for him, in which he performed his last labors, could conceivably be demonstrated to us today.

It is, therefore, fitting that we should here assemble to pay this deserved tribute. We, as Masons, extoll his many virtues, not the last of which was his recognition of the high level of individual dignity. May we emulate him in his simple, sincere, sturdy and forthright conduct. May all our good intentions be crowned with success. May brotherly love prevail in all the earth and every moral and social virtue cement us.

#### TRIBUTE TO TRUMAN MEDAL

In conjunction with the ongoing celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the State of Israel, The Judaic Heritage Society announces the selection of Harry S. Truman, 33rd President of the United States, as the recipient of the Society's first **Man of the Year Award**.

It was President Truman, first among world statesmen to recognize Israel, who personally ordered de facto recognition by the United States, eleven minutes after the new state was proclaimed by David Ben Gurion on the 14th of May, 1948. With Israel's borders beset by neighbors determined to obliterate the new state at birth and push its people into the sea, President

Truman's direct and simple action served notice to the world that Israel was not alone.

Margaret Truman, in her biography of her father, writes: "This was a decision made by Dad alone, in spite of the opposition of the State Department . . ." Abba Eban, in his recent book, **My Country**, speaks glowingly of Harry Truman as the man who had taken "audacious responsibility" for recognizing Israel a few minutes after its establishment.

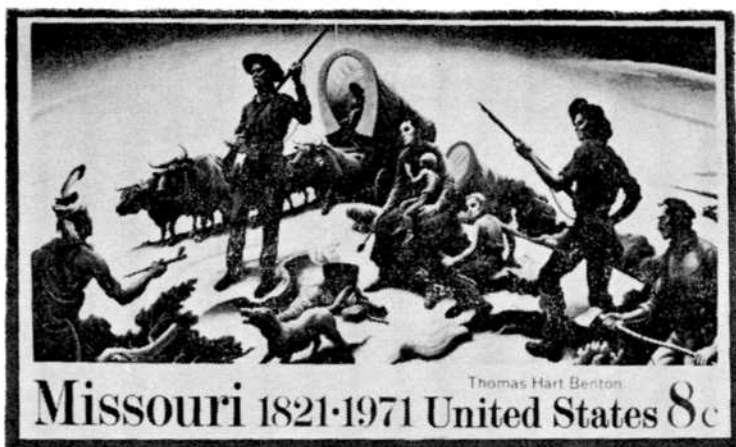
In appreciation and commemoration, The Judaic Heritage Society has created a "Tribute to Truman" Medal. The reverse of the medal reads: "On the 25th year of the founding of the State of Israel, The Judaic Heritage Society honors Harry S. Truman for his historic service to the Jewish people."

#### HARRY S. TRUMAN



While it isn't philatelic, Masons will find the two-medal set produced by the International Numismatic Agency of New York of interest. One of the medals portrays President Truman, with a view of him in the course of his famous daily walk in Independence, Mo.

The second medal bears the dual portraits of Truman and Franklin D. Roosevelt, both Masons. The reverse shows Truman being sworn into the office of President by Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone.



Missouri Statehood commemorative, released at Independence, Missouri May 8, 1971. The design was based on Thomas Hart Benton's mural "Independence and the Opening of the West," executed for the Truman Library.

#### GEORGE BRYDGES RODNEY

By Robert A. Smith

George Brydges Rodney (1719-1792) entered the Navy in 1732 as a "King's Letter Boy," or, actually, a Naval Cadet Officer. The official title was Gentleman's Volunteer.

During a brilliant career as a naval officer he served as Governor of Newfoundland from 1748 to 1752. As Rear-Admiral (1759) he commanded the naval squadron which bombed Le Havre and destroyed the flotilla prepared for an invasion of England.

In 1762 he captured Martinique, St. Lucia and Grenada. Created a Baronet in 1764, he was appointed the following year Governor of Greenwich Hospital, a post he retained until 1771. In 1768 he was elected a member of Parliament at great cost to himself (he expended 30,000 pounds sterling for election purposes). In those days candidates bribed electors to vote for them and there was no limit to election expenses.

After serving as Commander-in-Chief, Jamaica, from 1771-74, he was returned to England, and was placed on half pay. Due to his social extravagances, together with his election expenses, he was financially embarrassed and was being dunned by his creditors. He therefore went to France in 1775 under an assumed name.

While in France he joined a Masonic Lodge and Club on the Rue St. Nicaise, in Paris, under his assumed name. Later

le Duc de Biron, Marshal of France, persuaded him to reveal his true identity. On doing so a banquet was held in his honor, and all of his debts were paid by the Marshal and his brethren. He left Paris and returned to England in 1778.

In 1779 he was placed, with full pay, in command of a squadron, and gained a series of victories culminating in his defeating the Comte de Grasse at the Battle of Saints, off Dominica, April 12, 1782. This saved Jamaica from a French invasion.

He was created Baron Rodney of Stoke Rodney in June of 1782, and was granted a pension of 2,000 pounds per year.

Jamaica (Scott No. 84) pictures a monument erected to his memory at Kingston, Jamaica. A St. Lucia stamp of 1936 (Scott's No. 103) shows a view of Fort Rodney, at Pigeon Island, named after the admiral.

#### BROTHERHOOD IN ACTION

RUDYARD KIPLING—1865-1936

The great British author, Rudyard Kipling, was initiated in Hope and Perseverance Lodge No. 782, at Lahore, Punjab, India, in 1886 by special dispensation, as he was only 20 years and six months of age. He recorded his own raising in the minutes, and was immediately elected Secretary of the lodge.

In his own words, his Lodge was one which included Brethren of at least four creeds:

"I was Entered by a member of Brahmo Somaj, a Hindu; Passed by a Mohammedan, and Raised by an Englishman.

"Our Tyler (Tiler) was an Indian Jew.

"We met, of course, on the level, and the only difference anyone would notice was that, at our banquets, some of the Brethren, who were debarred by caste rules from eating food not ceremonially prepared, sat over empty plates."

He affiliated with Independence and Philanthropy Lodge No. 391, Allahabad, Bengal, in 1888.

On his return to England, he became a Founder of the Builders of the Silent Cities Lodge No. 4948 in 1927, and Authors Lodge No. 3456. He was also appointed Poet Laureate of Cannongate Kilwinning Lodge No. 2, of Edinburgh, Scotland.



#### MASONIC CANAL ZONE GEM

A spectacular Canal Zone postal card error has been reported by Robert A. Siegel, which has especial interest to Masons.

The card in its normal form was issued by the Canal Zone October 24, 1924. It was printed by the Panama Canal Press, Mount Hope, C.Z., apparently in two operations. An elaborate stamp-size background was presumably printed first, and in the second stage

the stamp indicia was printed over this background.

Scott lists the card as No. U8, type E6, with the stamp indicia carrying the seal of the Canal Zone, and the value (1 cent). There were 205,000 of the cards printed, and entires are difficult to come by.

Walter Mader II, of the Siegel staff, noticed that a card in a large holding to be broken up for auction lacked the stamp indicia. It was submitted to authority Dr. Gilbert Plass, and declared genuine in all respects.

What is of special interest is that the error card carried a notice of a Masonic Lodge meeting, with dates and other data indicated by a punch—similar to a conductor's punch. A normal card, also found in the lot, had a similar Masonic notice, with similar punch marks.

Ted Behr of the Siegel organization has graciously provided a special photo of the card to The Masonic Philatelist.

#### WORLD'S SMALLEST STAMP



Robson Lowe, Ltd., has publicized what may be the smallest stamp ever issued—an item included in a March 1 and 2 auction held in Basle. The item was used at Hopedale, Mass., in 1849.

Hopedale was a farming community, southeast of Milford, and was founded in April, 1842, by the Rev. Adin Ballou. There was no postal communication from Milford to Hopedale, so a meeting was called February 2, 1849, at which time it was voted to organize a postal service between the two localities.

The cost was 1 cent a letter in addition to the ordinary postage. Two types of stamps were used. One was a small oblong, which was type-set, and the other was circular, as shown here. Possibly a dozen examples of this local exist.

A review of the show catalogue for the BELGICA '72 international show discloses there were no entries in the area of Masonry on Stamps. Possibly this will be changed when the Munich International is staged in May of 1973.



## AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES

# Tom Sawyer

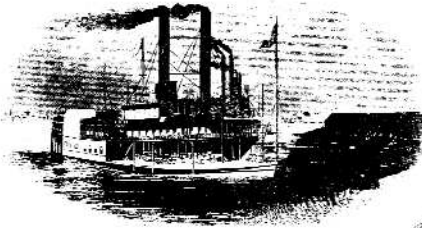


*"Tom appeared on the sidewalk with a bucket of white-wash and a long-handled brush. He surveyed the fence and gladness left him and a deep melancholy settled down upon his spirit. Thirty yards of board fence nine feet high...." (Mark Twain)*

These words read by young people of all ages, and brought to life by this commemorative issue, describe one of the most famous scenes and one of the best known fences in the world.

To many, Tom Sawyer represents the typical boy cleverly avoiding an unpleasant chore. To others he represents a super salesman with the ability to exchange "old lamps for new." To all who meet him, Tom leaves that warm feeling of friendship that will last well beyond the closing of the book and the magical words of Mark Twain.

The commemorative issue and the associated original steel vignettes, engraved between 1859 and 1877, honors Tom Sawyer and children of all ages, who like Tom dream their dreams of adventure.



Trimmed reproduction of the Postal Service's Tom Sawyer "American Commemorative" panel, now available at \$2.00 from Postiques, and the Philatelic Sales Unit in Washington.



## 1972 MASONIC CACHETS

**Sponsored by the Masonic Stamp Club of N. Y.**



**SET OF 3 ONLY \$2.00**

**LIMITED SUPPLY**

**These cachets can be obtained from, Louis Bernstein, Cachet Sales Chairman, Masonic Cachets, 451 West 46th Street, New York, New York 10036.**